

The St. John Standard

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ST. JOHN, N. B., TUESDAY, JANUARY 20, 1920.

MR. KING AND THE FARMERS.

The Opposition Leader offered his St. John audience two or three explanations of the rise of the Farmers' party. One was that a big delegation of farmers went to Ottawa, and were denied the privilege of having their spokesman address Parliament from the floor of the House, though it does not appear that the Government refused to listen to their views. Anyway, Mr. King tells us that the farmers were disgruntled by what they considered the arbitrary attitude of the Government, and went home vowing vengeance. As luck would have it the first opportunity they had to vent their wrath was when the Hearst Government went to the country; so they rose in their might and smote it hip and thigh. This explanation amused the audience, but it did not give much comfort to Premier Foster and his supporters in the Legislature who adorned the platform. If Mr. King's explanation of the farmers' uprising was all wool and a yard wide, then their Irish was up in such fashion that they were ag'in all Governments, including the amateur Government which has denied the farmers of Carleton County their full share of spokesmen on the floor of the Legislature for a long time.

Perhaps Mr. King as an afterthought reflected that his explanation of the Farmers' movement was not calculated to please the Provincial Ministers who had travelled far to grace his meeting and give him countenance. At any rate he soon invented another explanation. He went on to declare that the Farmers' movement came into being as a result of the defeat of reciprocity. And then on general principles he affirmed that the Farmers' movement was incited and inspired by Liberal principles, apparently being content to allow his audience to infer that the farmers deemed it necessary to carry forward the campaign for Liberal principles because they could not trust the Leader of the Liberal party to find out what Liberal principles were and interpret them to the country.

When Mr. King said that the rise of the Farmers' party was due to the defeat of reciprocity, he might have added that the principal argument advanced by Laurier and Fielding to enlist the support of the farmers for reciprocity has since been disarmed by changes in the United States tariff. The farmers were promised a fine market in the United States if the reciprocity pact was adopted in 1911, but at present they would have little to gain in the American markets if the pact was put in force. The United States Tariff Commission has just issued a report, in which reference is made to the reciprocity agreement of 1911. The Commission says that at the time the reciprocity agreement was framed it would have resulted in considerably heavier reduction by the United States of the comparatively high tariff of 1909 than of the lower rates of the Canadian tariff. Since 1911, however, the situation has been in a large measure reversed, "because of the adoption by the United States of extensive reductions in tariff rates on foodstuffs and raw materials, and the imposition by Canada upon many manufactured articles of an additional tax of 7.12 per cent." The Commission goes on to say: "The report will show that the volume of imports into the United States from Canada which would be affected by the inauguration of the reciprocity agreement today has decreased both absolutely and relatively, although the total imports from Canada into the United States during the same period have greatly increased. In fact, duties upon flaxseed and hay are now the only American rates of importance that would be reduced by the adoption of the reciprocity agreement of 1911. On the other hand the imports into Canada that would feel the effects of the agreement have greatly increased in value."

In the light of the facts contained in this report the strongest arguments once urged on behalf of reciprocity fall to the ground, and Mr. King will have difficulty rousing any enthusiasm for a lost cause. Similarly the report contains an effective answer to most of the arguments Mr. Cramer is now using to catch the farmers' votes. If with an American tariff approximating that offered by the reciprocity pact the exports of foodstuffs and raw materials included in the scope of the pact have fallen off absolutely as well as relatively, it follows that the American market promised the Canadian farmers by the advocates of reciprocity did not exist then or has since been supplied by the increasing production of America itself.

THE RUSSIAN DANGER.

Allied policy towards Russia, which has been nearly as mysterious as Mackenzie King's attitude to practical politics in Canada, and which has so far been mainly productive of fiasco, is apparently to undergo a change of a certain sort. At any rate it is announced that while official recognition

will still be withheld from the Lenin-Trotsky Government, the blockade will be lifted sufficiently to permit the opening of a limited trade with the Russian people. Lloyd George expresses the view that the situation in Russia being comparable to the situation in France after the revolution of 1793 military pressure from without is only calculated to unite the Russians behind their de facto Government. As a matter of fact he preached the same view at the general elections over a year ago, and important newspapers in France and England have been preaching it for a much longer time. Mr. Lloyd George has not been master in his own house; Winston Churchill has not yet abandoned his ambition to have a first class war with Russia, and is still in open opposition to the Premier. Nor is Mr. Lloyd George without opposition in the Allied Council, where Clemenceau has had a lingering hope that some Frenchman among the multitude of military missions he has sent to the Anti-Bolshevik forces would prove a greater man than Napoleon, and show the way to the conquest of all Russia.

The International financiers of London and Paris want war with Bolshevik Russia, and the armament makers have no particular aversion to war anywhere; but the Governments of England, France and Italy have the best of reasons for fearing that an effort to launch a real war with Russia would provoke an uprising of the working class at home, and develop Bolshevism on an international scale. Militarily Bolshevik Russia now appears to be stronger than ever, and to overthrow the Bolsheviks by force of arms would require a military expedition on a greater scale than any of the European Allies could afford—if they could induce soldiers to go to Russia. The strength of the Russian revolution, of which Bolshevism is probably only an incident like the Reign of Terror in Paris, lies in the fact that historically it corresponds to the French Revolution of 1793, and the English Revolution under Cromwell. The Russian revolution has overthrown Russian feudalism; the peasants have taken possession of the land, and naturally fear the anti-Bolsheviks will restore the old landlords, as in fact Kolchak and Denikin have been doing whenever they occupied Bolshevik territory. Given peace, security and opportunity of trade, the Russian peasantry may be expected to take a different view of the dictatorship of Lenin and Trotsky. Now that dictatorship represents a bulwark against the restoration of the old feudal regime which the peasantry have had good reason to hate. When it no longer appears in that light, there is reasonable expectation that the peasantry will get rid of it and establish some form of representative government guaranteeing their acquired rights, and enabling them to live in peace with their neighbors.

Allied recognition of Lenin and Trotsky would probably be dangerous; in any case it would serve no good purpose. Those bright adventurers would recognize no treaty or agreement any longer than that suited their convenience. Their threats of promoting an international proletarian revolution which have scared the international Jews out of their wits are not easy of fulfillment. Their own so-called proletarian revolution has resulted in a great exodus from the Russian cities where the proletariat dwell. Their attempt to establish a communistic regime has proved a fiasco; economic evolution in Russia has not reached a stage where a communistic regime is practical. If Allied policy results in the peasantry changing their views as to the need of a military dictatorship to protect their newly won rights, Lenin and Trotsky may soon be seeking other worlds to conquer. But even with Bolshevism overthrown the Russian revolution is likely to persist, and leave the bourgeoisie in control of political affairs. And a bourgeois regime in Russia presents certain dangers to England's eastern Empire, though not nearly as great as Bolshevik propaganda does. In India, Persia and other eastern nations industrial development is creating a bourgeois class which begins to reach out for political power, realising the need of it in their business. Side by side with a bourgeois ruled Russia these other countries might possibly accomplish their bourgeois revolution without any great amount of bloodshed, or, if British statesmanship is wise, without a rupture with England, just as the business men of Canada accomplished their revolution when Mackenzie King's grandfather, Papineau, and Joe Howe were making a noise in the land. On the other hand, a Bolshevik Russia, deriving power from a peasantry's fear of foreign intervention, has a chance—though not a great one—of setting the east aflame, and presently drawing western Europe into the conflagration.

WHAT THEY SAY

No Wonder.
 The tenants in a Chicago apartment house were greatly excited the other

sight when fire broke out in the furnace room. They were hopeful that the heat would spread to the rest of the building.

The Real Need.

(Edmonton Journal.)
 The editor of The Nor-West Farmer is a courageous and original man. He has been reading a great deal about this and that "ism" put forward as remedies for the ills of this afflicted old world of ours. But he apparently has concluded that too much time has been wasted in trying to understand these proposals and suggests something simpler is required. Accordingly he sets up the Real Need of the Hour, and displays them in a neat border on his editorial page under the heading "The Real Need of the Hour." He declares his belief that these ten laws of right thinking are just as surely the fundamentals of real prosperity as the observance of them is the true road to individual well-being and happiness.

U. S. Control of Paper Supply.

(Publishers' Bulletin.)
 A bill was introduced in Congress on January 5 by Representative Christopher of South Dakota providing for Federal control of the entire paper supply of the country. Under the provisions of the measure, the Federal Trade Commission would be authorized to direct and control all available supply of newspaper paper and supervise its allocation and distribution. Present contracts between manufacturers of newspaper and newspapers would be abrogated or suspended during the life of the act, or for a period of one year.

Maybe So.

(Hamilton Spectator.)
 A report from Ottawa states that of trade credits of \$25,000,000 each granted to France, Belgium, Greece and Romania for 1918, but about \$40,000,000 has been used. This seems to indicate remarkable recuperative qualities on the part of these countries, more especially Belgium, which has thus far availed itself of only \$2,000,000. There is a credible inference in these figures that the work of reconstruction in countries devastated by the war is proceeding at a far more satisfactory pace than was at first thought possible, which, it is sincerely hoped, may ultimately prove to be true.

A BIT OF VERSE

HOPE.

(Suggested by Watts' Famous Painting, "Hope.")
 Herbert E. Collins.
 Upon the world she crouches there;
 Her folded eyes no longer shine
 As with eternal hope divine;
 Her huddled form would say despair.

Though all seems lost, there still remains,
 Enkindled by the darkness void,
 One gleam of hope that's not destroyed,
 One string her broken harp retains.

Through thrones and empires totter,
 Through fingers red in frenzy clutch
 At brothers' throats, desiring much,
 And yet, without love, losing all;

Through turmoil, quarrel, strife increase,
 And flames of hatred fiercely fanned,
 Through thoughts of brotherhood
 And distant seems the Day of Peace.

And dark the night; yet God forbid
 That we should yield us to despair,
 Her harp retains one perfect string:
 The earth shall yet in gladness sing.
 When Common Sense shall reign supreme.

A BIT OF FUN

Philosophy of It.

"Alas!" sighed young Callow, "if only Eve hadn't been so fond of apples."
 "My dear boy," said Cynicus, "Eve wasn't so very fond of apples, but that was the only forbidden fruit."
 Undecided.
 "What is Smith going to do, now that his fortune is gone?"
 "He's undecided whether to be a chauffeur to his former butler, or butler to his former chauffeur."
 Didn't Know Greek.
 "You don't intend to have the hoi polloi at supper, do you Mrs. Come-up?"
 "Why of course, if we can get hold of a cook that knows how to make it."

Different Tactics.

"I suppose, in these prohibition times, husbands will not stay out as late at night as they formerly did."
 "Oh, yes, they will; but they will be able to offer more coherent excuses."

An Easy One.

A lecturer was speaking on utility and during his discourse he picked up a sieve that was lying on the table.
 "Now for instance," said the lecturer

Benny's Note Book

BY LEE PAPE

Me and Leroy Shooter was standing outside of Mary Watkins house in case Mary Watkins mite come out, and Leroy Shooter sed, G, gosh, look whose coming with a round hat with checks on it. Meaning Puds Simkinses slasey cousin Persey, and I sed, Gosh, G.

And when Persey came up, Leroy Shooter sed, Hello Persey, wase did you get that hat, O boy, some hat, we dont you start a parade by yourself?

Wy, wat? Wats the matter with it? sed Persey, and I sed its a heck of a looking hat, if I didnt have any thing better looking than that to ware, Id come out in my bald head.

Ive seen some funny looking hats, but that ones funnier looking than all the rest put together, sed Leroy Shooter.

Wat? Wy? Wats funny looking about it? sed Persey. Wich jest then Mary Watkins came out, saying Hello boys, O Persey, wats a perfectly bewtiff hat.

These fellows was jest saying it was funny looking, sed Persey, and Mary Watkins sed, The very idee, there must be sumthing the matter with their taste, I think its perfectly lovely.

And she kepp on admiring it out loud, and I sed, I think its all rite, I jest sed it waseent for fun, I gess Persey cant take a joke, and Leroy Shooter sed, It aint sutch a bad hat, its a all rite hat, Ive saw funnier looking hats than that allredy.

And when pop came home I asked him to take me up to the hat store before suppr, and buy me a round hat with checks on it, wich he took me up to after I proved to him about 6 times that I needed a new one, and who did we meet going in the hat store but Leroy Shooter and his father, Mr. Shooter saying to pop, Hello Potts, Im afraid this kid of mine will disherit me or sumthing if I dont buy him a round check cap. Meaning Leroy, and pop sed, This one too.

Meaning me.

impressively, "you can see the utter utility of carrying water in this sleeve."

"Oh, I don't know," spoke the man in the audience, "I guess it can be done."

"Can be done!" exclaimed the lecturer, with a superior glance at the other. "Will you be good enough to tell me how?"

"Certainly," was the prompt rejoinder of the man. "Wait until the water freezes."

privileges that is denied to the general public.

Yours very truly,
 LONGFELLOW.

THE ANNUAL MEETING.
 The Women's Association of German Street Baptist Church held their annual meeting yesterday afternoon, electing the following officers: Mrs. N. C. Scott, president; Mrs. George Parker, secretary; Mrs. J. W. VanWart, Treasurer; Mrs. Vaughan, convener of the visiting committee. This society is formed of representatives from all the organizations of the church, and reports are heard at its meetings of the activities of the various departments of church work.

IN THE EDITOR'S MAIL

CITY SAND TEAMS ADRIFF.
 To Editor of The Standard:
 Sir,—I wish to call your attention to a matter that is causing a good deal of comment. I refer to the very careless manner in which the city sand teams are allowed to wander along the street without a driver as they are doing this winter. These teams are very often in the way of all kinds of traffic. This is a real grievance. The city fathers who make the laws are the first to break them. This does not reflect any discredit on the so-called driver, who is walking along the street with a bucket of sand on his arm, just as he has been ordered to do by the superintendent, who apparently has full charge. We would like to know why this is allowed by the policemen who are the guardians of the rights of the people. And why is the department of public works allowed to take for themselves

"Better be Sure than Sorry!"

Build Now

There's no prospect of lower prices; the tendency is rather to rise. But, St. John prices are low by comparison; for example:
 In Boston, all grades of spruce for house building averages \$75 per 1000, with 'refuse' at \$50 per 1000.
 In St. John, spruce averages \$48 per 1000, with 'refuse' at \$33 per 1000.

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Stomach Disorder

Only Six Months To Live.
 Read What B. B. B. Did For Him.

Mr. Hans Kehli, Magnolia, Alta., writes:—"Some years ago I became very sick from stomach disorder, which the doctor told me had started from drinking bad water. I tried local doctors, but, finally I got worse from day to day. I went to a doctor in Edmonton. He told me that I must have an operation, and that if I didn't I couldn't live any longer than six months. I told him I had better die after six months than be cut to pieces. I did not have the operation, but returned home. No one was there to meet me at the station, because they did not know I was coming. I felt so bad I couldn't walk farther than 10 yards without resting. It took me 6 hours to walk 2 miles; the distance from the station to my home.

Some weeks later I read an advertisement about your Burdock Blood Bitters. After I had used one bottle I felt much better, and after I had used three bottles I was completely cured; therefore you see your B. B. B. has saved my life, and I cannot praise it too highly."

Burdock Blood Bitters puts the stomach into shape by promoting perfect digestion, and restoring health and strength to the system. Manufactured only by The T. Milburn Co., Limited, Toronto, Ont.

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S. KERR,
 Principal

Diamonds in 1920

Our advice to those who are intending to buy diamonds is to make the purchase at once. All indications are that the great demand of the past few years will continue in 1920 and the limited supply of gems not be materially increased.

We are advised by those in closest touch with the situation that diamond prices will be much higher a year from now, and that the first of a series of price advances may be looked for within the next few weeks.

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